

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

The steamers *El Dorado* and *Prometheus* have arrived at New York, with dates from San Francisco to the 14th ult. The *Prometheus* brings 423 passengers, and \$310,000 in gold.

The *El Dorado* brought the mails, passengers, and treasure (\$700,000) brought down by the steamer *Panama*, which left San Francisco on the 7th of May.

Two men, named Brophy and Scotty, were arrested on the 6th, charged with two attempts to blow up the steamer *Sierra Nevada*. The accused were seen on board the steamer, and the attempts were made on the trip between Panama and San Francisco.

A terrible affray occurred at Santa Barbara by a party of squatters and Sheriff W. W. Twist, assisted by a party of citizens. Two of the latter, (one a Justice of the Peace, J. A. Vidal, Esq.) were shot dead, and Sheriff Twist was mortally wounded. Intense excitement followed, during which the revenue cutter *Ewing* arrived, the commander of which promptly offered his assistance to the Mayor. The excitement continued at last accounts. The affair grew out of an attempt to reject a squatter named John Power, who had threatened to resist the Sheriff.

A party of 1200 Sonorians are on their way to California.

A destructive fire occurred at San Francisco on the evening of the 4th, destroying the Bassett House and several adjoining buildings. Loss \$125,000. Several inmates of the Bassett House are believed to have perished—one of them, a Mr. Hubbard, of Ohio. The buildings were on Bush and Sansone streets. Among the sufferers are Dr. Tibbitts, Mrs. West, Mr. Colson, Kreyenhagen and Howard, Waverly House, Druggery and Gray, Marston and Dorr, J. Herr & Co. Fifteen or twenty buildings were destroyed.

The old legislative hall at San Jose, used as the county record office, was burnt on the morning of the 6th. Records saved.—The fire is supposed to have been caused by incendiaries.

The news from the mining districts is satisfactory. There is no falling off in the yield of gold. The weather was favorable for agricultural purposes, and an extraordinary yield was anticipated.

A bill creating a fund for the support of a University at Benicia, by the sale of water lots within the limits of that city, has been ordered to an engrossment in the Legislature.

The hospital repeal bill has passed. Mr. Asa H. Ames was killed at Grass Valley while making some repairs on the machinery of the Empire Quartz Mining Company.

The May day festival of the public schools of San Francisco was attended by 1500 children.

TERRA is a prophecy current among the Turks, that their empire in Europe will last four hundred years. As Mahomet II. took Constantinople on the 29th May, 1453 (old style), this period terminated on the 10th of June, in the present year.

SIXTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS have been subscribed in the United States, towards a monument to Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination; a larger sum it is said than has been contributed by any other country.

GRAPE CULTURE.—A large party of Germans were in Albany last week on grape culture. This business is increasing in the United States.

AN OFFICER of one of the Royal British Regiments, only 18 years of age, has recently walked 56 miles in 11 hours 56 minutes. He undertook to perform the feat in 12 hours.

TIVERTON.—At the annual Town Meeting in Tiverton, on Monday, George W. Humphrey, Democrat, was elected a Representative in the place of Wm. P. Sheffield, resigned.

A GREAT NUMBER of ships were wrecked last year than in any previous one. On the British coast alone, one thousand one hundred vessels were lost.

THE "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company," of Boston, celebrated on Monday their 125th anniversary. The public schools all had a holiday.

THOMAS NEARY and Patrick S. Fitzgerald were executed at New York yesterday. Both murdered their wives, and both confessed the deed.

A FIRE OCCURRED in the woods in Plymouth, which destroyed about \$3000 worth of cord wood, and did extensive damage to a large tract of woodland.

A NEGRO FELLOW the other day got himself into trouble by marrying two wives.—A great many white men do the same by marrying one.

THERE are 3000 straw-sewers in New York city, working for 5 months in the year, and turning off 1,200,000 hats and bonnets.

DONALD G. MITCHELL, of Conn., consul at Venice, a few days since married Mary F., daughter of William B. Friggle, of Charleston, S. C.

THE STEAMER *George Washington* has been chartered in New York; by Capt. Nathan Childs, for excursions in Narraganset Bay.

COFFEE.—The export duty upon coffee in the Brazils is to be reduced from 11 per cent. to 9 per cent. after the 1st of July.

AN Edinburgh paper states that an American has invented a machine which is to be driven by the force of circumstances.

ADVANCE IN TEA.—The news from China has caused an advance of 20 per cent. on green Tea, and 10 per cent. on black.

THE AMENDED CHARTER for the government of the city of New York was accepted on Tuesday by an overwhelming majority.

FORTY TWO CROATA INDIANS arrived on Boston Wednesday in brig *Pembroke* from Mobile.

TWO YOUNG MEN, named John Caple and Curson Emmons, are under sentence of death at Philadelphia.

THE VALUE of the sand caught in New York Bay every season, is said to be \$300,000.

ASPIRATION of a husband.—O that the husband would last as long as the bonnet!

BY THE MAIL.

THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION IN CANADA. We before stated that a fire had occurred on the Ottawa river, in Canada, which had swept over a surface of sixteen miles.—Further particulars have been received, from which it appears that the fire was very destructive of property, sweeping forests and fences, houses and barns, flocks and herds before it, and it is feared destroying many lives. The *Montreal Gazette* gives the following particulars, derived from a well informed source:—Upon the island of Alouettes, it is believed that two churches and about thirty buildings have been consumed; upon Calumet Island the saw mills of F. X. Bastien, Esq., and about thirty farm buildings; in Penbrooke, the establishment of Mr. C. O. Kelley, and other buildings; in the township of Westmeath, Beech's grist, saw mills and about twenty farm buildings; in the township of Ross, an entire settlement, known as the Garden of Eden, has been destroyed, besides Gould's wharves, and all the stores and farm buildings on the south side of the river at Portage du Fort; in Bromley, about ten buildings were destroyed.—About two hundred families, principally those of agriculturists, have been left homeless.

A FISH STORY.—The *Yonkers Herald* tells of a wonderful nondescript fish which was caught near Spuyten Duyvel, in the Hudson River, in the shad fykes of a fisherman named Kniffin. It measured about four feet from the nose to the tip of the tail, and in shape resembled a toad fish.—The mouth which, when distended would take in a peck measure, was filled with teeth, indicating a most voracious disposition. After dissecting him, his stomach was found to contain five full grown shad, two hard shell crabs, and a moderate-sized puppy dog of the terrier breed. But what was most singular of all, was his being supplied with two hands, just about that part of the breast where the Siamese twins are connected, each hand having four distant fingers, and a thumb about the size of a four years old child. He was also provided with fins similar to those of a green turtle, and, upon the whole, was a most fiendish, ill-looking customer.

GAS DE TREES.—Is it necessary consequence of laying the gas pipes through the streets, that the trees on the routes should begin to wither and die, or is it merely a coincidence that the death of the trees follows the introduction of the gas? The pipes have recently been laid through that part of Federal street which was formerly Marlboro' street, and already four or five fine trees are dead or dying. We should be very sorry to be deprived of the convenience of the gas or of its beautiful light, but we really cannot afford to lose the trees which are the beauty of Salem. We would suggest to the Gas Company whether it would not be for their interest to have their pipes laid with so much care, as to ensure that there shall be no leakage in the street. Salem Observer.

MANUFACTURE OF SHOE STRINGS.—There is at Georgetown, in Essex county, a manufacture of shoe strings for the Southern and Western market, and used with brogan shoes which are so extensively manufactured throughout New England, in exchange for the breadstuffs of the South and West. The process is simple yet requiring quite a number of workmen to meet the demand for the article. The factory the former costing \$20 per thousand and the latter \$10 per thousand—the quality of the stock ranging the prices.

AN IMMENSE FIELD OF GYPSUM.—Capt. Marcy, of the army, in surveying the great south western plains last summer, discovered the largest field of gypsum in the world. Gypsum, when burned, becomes that valuable article called plaster of paris. It lies three hundred miles west of Fort Smith, Arkansas. The strata in some places is twenty feet thick, of the purest kind, white, and in some instances transparent. He said that there is a sufficient quantity of it to supply the whole world, and would employ a railroad in its transportation one hundred years.

HORRIBLE DEATH FROM A RATTLESNAKE BITE.—The *Ancient City*, published at St. Augustine, says: "On Saturday, the 14th of May, a son of Mr. Fitch, of this county, while picking whortle berries, was struck by a large rattlesnake—upon being struck he started to run, but found the snake had its fangs fastened to his pantaloons leg, and in stumbling and struggling to get loose, the snake struck him some six or seven times. The lad was about 14 or 15 years of age. He survived but a few hours."

GEN. GREENE in despatches after the battle of Eutaw, says: "Hundreds of my men were as naked as they were born."—Judge Johnson in his life of Greene, says: "Posterity will scarcely believe that the bare limbs of many men who carried death into the enemy's ranks at Eutaw, were galled by their cartouch boxes, while a fold of a rag or tuft of moss protected the shoulder from the same injury by the musket."—These were the men of the revolution.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY.—This beautiful "city of the dead," in Brooklyn, N. Y., was opened in 1840, since which time there have been 26,470 interments. On an average, eighteen interments take place daily, and during some portions of the year this number is increased to 25 or 30, and passing the gateway, from morning till night, is a nearly unbroken line of funeral processions.

SIGNIFICANT FACT.—In this city, containing 17,000 inhabitants, there are at this time only five paupers—three of them in the Almshouse, and two others partly able to support themselves. Probably, we are informed by good authority, this number will not be increased for the year to come. It is difficult to find large towns of which such a remark could be made. Manchester N. H. Mirror.

NEW MOTIVE POWER.—Mrs. Partington, in the presence of a numerous party of her friends, has expressed her decided opinion that the period is not far distant when steamboats and locomotives will be propelled by the force of moral suasion!—She therefore does not recommend to her friends to take any of the caloric stock at present.—Boston Post.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Apalachicola Advertiser* advocates the planting of vineyards in Florida, for the production of wine, for which the soil and climate are both favorable. He says wine, dried figs, and raisins can be produced in abundance there.

THE WEATHER AND CROPS IN MAINE.—At the risk of causing some of our neighbors to declare that this is a most cold, dreary, backward and discouraging spring, we venture to say that it is one of the most promising, hopeful and beautiful of any springtime within our recollection. The farmers upon new land have had a fine season for clearing their lands and getting in the seed. The grass has started with great vigor, and seems to promise an abundant crop. Indeed, the opportunities furnished by the weather for the pursuit of agricultural labor will add much to the products of the State by having stimulated enterprise.

The people engaged in lumbering have been uncommonly successful in their department, and now have the prospect of getting their logs to the mills in good season. The crop of fruit will be large, and the warm and genial weather will have a great influence in giving courage to the farmer, and will induce new and greater efforts in the great art of farming in Maine.—Bangor Whig.

ISOLATORS BY MISTAKE.—The late Lady Baird (says a writer in *Notes and Queries*) of Fernwater in Pershire, told me that every year at "Belmont" (or the 1st of May) a number of men and women assembled at an ancient druidical circle of stones on her property, near Crieff. They light a fire in the centre; each person puts a bit of oatcake into a shepherd's bonnet; they all sit down and draw blindfold a piece of cake from the bonnet. One piece has been previously blackened, and whoever knows that piece has to jump through the fire in the centre of the circle and to pay a forfeit. This is, in fact, a part of the ancient worship of Baal, and the person on whom the lot fell was formerly burnt as a sacrifice; now the passing through the fire represents that, and the payment of the forfeit redeems the victim. It is curious that staunch Presbyterians, as the people of that part of Perthshire now are, should unknowingly keep up the observance of a great heathen festival.

SKYLARKS.—A colony of skylarks, forty-two in number, were recently imported from England by a gentleman of Salem and liberated on the farm of Samuel Candy, about four miles out of town, with the hope of perpetuating the species in this country, and thus adding a songster of much renown to our forest choir. The birds flew from the place at which they were released in various directions, and, for the most part, in flocks of three to twelve, alighting, mostly, within sight, upon adjoining farms. Several of them have been seen within the last ten days, one about two miles from the point of dispersion, rising high in the air, singing as it ascended.

DANGERS OF THE SEA.—The recent report of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariner's Royal Benevolent Society of England, states that during the last winter, no less than 1,100 vessels were wrecked on the coast of the United Kingdom. Within the past year the Society have afforded relief to 724 widows and aged parents, 1,040 orphans, and 3,810 fishermen and mariners; making a total of 5,474 persons suffering from shipwreck, and 39,323 since its formation.

WM. H. HINES, kissed Mrs. Gorham, in East Boston, the other day. She sued him for damages for value received, but did not appear on the return day, having this may be set down as the Boston Market price of kisses. The last decision in New York was \$5, and in New Orleans \$3. A very valuable article, certainly; but luxuries must be paid for. Boston Times.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—A Washington correspondent of the *New York Journal of Commerce* says:—

"Marble is hereafter to be adopted by the Government for all public edifices, here or elsewhere, instead of granite or sand stone. To the climate of the South, particularly, marble is much better adapted than granite; for in a humid climate, granite soon becomes rusty & moss-covered."

MURDER IN LITTLE COMPTON.—Mr. Job Briggs of Little Compton, informs us that his duck-house was entered on Friday night, by some evil-minded weasel, and sixty fine ducks just ready for market, were foully murdered by the bloody vermin. Most of the bodies were left upon the ground, with only fifteen of the interesting family remaining to quack over them.—N. B. Mercury.

CURIOUS EPITAPH.—In a country graveyard in New Jersey there is a plain stone erected over the grave of a beautiful young lady, with only this inscription upon it:—

"Julia Adams, died of thin shoes, April 17th, 1839, aged 19."

One stone, more conspicuous than the rest, has this singular inscription upon it. "Here lies the body of John Jones, who never had an office. An honest man."

DEATH BY DROWNING.—Mr. John Prior was drowned in the Social Pond, in this village, last Sunday afternoon. He went into bathe, dove into the water, and was not seen alive afterwards. His body was not recovered until Monday morning. Mr. Prior was about 23 years of age, and has left a wife and two children. He was a native of Ireland.—Windsor Packet.

DEEP SEA SOUNDINGS.—The U. S. brig *Dolphin*, O. H. Berryman, Lt. Commanding, left Washington a few days since, on a cruise for deep sea soundings, in the track towards England and the North of Europe. She will make a thorough examination of all shoals or rocks reported as existing in that route. New York Jour. of Com.

STATUTE TO WEBSTER.—The committee appointed to collect funds for a statue to Daniel Webster, have resolved upon a statue of bronze, to be executed by Hiram Powers, and to be placed in State street, in front of the old State House. The money already subscribed is sufficient for the object, fifteen thousand dollars.

MACKEKEL.—A large fleet of mackerel catches were in the bay on Wednesday and Thursday, and found fish quite abundant. They have also been taken for several days in Provincetown harbor. One boat brought in five barrels one day last week.—Yarmouth Register.

DOGS.—Our town, at the present time is infested with any quantity of worthless dogs, who are to be met in every street and lane at any hour of the day. In fact we hardly knew the time when they were so numerous as at present. As the warm weather approaches it would be prudent policy we should think, to enforce the dog-law, for if they are not thought to be a dangerous class of bipeds, they certainly are a nuisance in any refined community, and one that should be abated forthwith. It is well known that many of them are a terror to females and children as they pass them in our streets, and instances are numerous in which they have attacked individuals, destroying their clothing if not injuring their person. We think there might be considerable revenue derived by the town, by a tax on every dog which is kept within its precincts. In other cities and towns such a tax is a source of considerable profit to the Treasury. This would have a tendency to rid our towns of a great number of worthless curs, and those only which are valuable would be kept, for not many would be willing to be taxed for such a useless appendage to a household. Many poor people who are hardly able to support and educate their children properly, keep one or more of these animals, whose support is no small item in such a family. As the dogs of ancient Egypt were a hissing and a by-word, so may the time soon arrive in these latter days when it shall be a reproach to any one to harbor such worthless specimens of the canine tribe as we daily meet in our walks about town. By all means let our authorities strictly enforce the law in this respect. F. R. Monitor.

THE DEPOSITION OF LIME UPON STEAM BOILERS PREVENTED.—To persons having the care of steam engines, the following, from the *Lawrenceburg (Md.) Register*, may be valuable:—

"Mr. Ira Hill has informed us that he has accidentally made a valuable discovery, by which the deposition of lime upon steam boilers may be obviated. Two or three shovels of sawdust are thrown into the boiler, after which process he says that he never had any difficulty from lime, though using water strongly impregnated with it. He always found the inside of his boilers as smooth as if just oiled. Whether the lime attached itself to the floating particles of sawdust, instead of to the boiler, or whether the tannic acid in the oak sawdust forms a salt with the lime which will not attach itself to iron, remains to be explained. The sawdust was placed in the boiler for the purpose of stopping a leak. The experiment is cheap and easily tried."

In the case of Alexander vs. The Hamilton and Dayton Rail Road Company. In the Superior Court of Cincinnati, Ohio, where the plaintiff brought an action to recover damages for being ejected from the defendants cars, after having paid his fare, but having accidentally lost his ticket. It was decided that the ticket was only evidence of the payment of the fare; and, if the ticket was lost, it would only subject the plaintiff to the trouble of proving by other testimony that he had paid his fare; that it was of no consequence to the plaintiff that the ticket might be found and used by another person; that the ticket was not transferable; and if the defendants choose to put it in a shape that they might be imposed upon, that would not affect the rights of the plaintiff. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—The following paragraph shows the way they do things in England when an accident happens on a railroad. It is copied from the London Times:—

"The responsibility of railroad companies is commencing in right earnest. On the 5th of this month an engine driver and a stoker lost their lives by an accident on the York and Midland. An investigation into the causes of the catastrophe instituted on the day following, was adjourned for a short period, and was concluded by the verdict of the jury on Tuesday last.—This verdict is nothing less than *Manslaughter against the Directors of the company*; so that now, for the first time, the actual managers of a railway are brought to personal account for the casualties of the line under their control."

REMEDY FOR CANCER.—Col. Ussery, of the parish of De Soto, informs the editor of the *Gadde Gazette* that he fully tested a remedy for this troublesome disease, recommended to him by a Spanish woman, a native of the country. The remedy is this: Take an egg and break it, pour out the white, retaining the yolk in the shell, put in salt and mix with the yolk as long as it will receive it, stir them together until the saline is formed; put a portion of this on a piece of sticking-plaster, and apply it to the cancer about twice a day. He has tried the remedy twice in his own family with complete success.

COPPER ORE is arriving in considerable quantities from the Lake Superior region. Over 200 tons of mass copper reached Detroit on the 22d inst. The average value of the ore \$700 per ton, and the whole is estimated to yield \$150,000. The principal part of this ore was shipped to Pittsburgh for smelting. About 2000 tons copper ore, it is estimated, are now ready for shipment at the various mines.

THE U. S. SHIP *MACEDONIA*.—A letter from on board the United States Ship *Macedonia*, dated at Madeira, May 1, says that the old ship, which many thought would not sail, has made a shorter passage than either the steamer *Mississippi* or the *Powhatan*. It seems that the alterations effected previous to her leaving New York, makes her one of the fastest ships now in the navy.

THE COLORED POPULATION of the City of New York, is stated by the *Journal of Commerce* to amount to eighteen thousand. There are fourteen colored Protestant churches, all of which are provided with colored pastors, except one Episcopal. There are eight or nine schools, mostly under the public school system, in which are gathered three thousand colored children.

The *Chicago Tribune* mentions a machine in that city which splits and shaves shingles. The shingle trade of Chicago is enormous—amounting last year to over seventy-seven millions. The increase, we are told this year thus far has been twenty-five per cent., and it is presumed that this year's business will exceed one hundred millions.

STRAWBERRIES raised at North Hill, Providence, were ripe in that market on Monday.

MURDER OF A SALEM MAN AT MANILLA.—Recent advices from Manilla, bring the sad intelligence of the brutal murder of Mr. George Mugford, of Salem, at that place, on the 6th of March. Mr. Mugford was the manager of a steam rope factory, and resided about two miles from Manilla. On Sunday, March 6th, he was visited by Capt. J. Sewall Parsons, of the Ship *Amity*, of Boston, and was engaged in religious services with him, in the evening, when the house was attacked by robbers, and both gentlemen were cruelly murdered, being very much disfigured with the wounds and bruises which they received. Plunder appears to have been the object, as both of them were found with their hands tied; but probably Mr. Mugford had recognized some of the rascals and called them by name, and they killed them to prevent discovery.

Mr. Mugford was about 47 years of age. He has been absent from home about eight years, and at the time of his death, was expecting to return home in a few weeks. He was a man of great personal worth and was highly esteemed. He had, for many years, been a member of the Tabernacle church, under the care of Rev. Dr. Worcester; and, at home and abroad, has been of those who have adorned their christian profession.

We understand that his remains may soon be received in this city, as they have been sent by his brother, Capt. Charles Mugford, who happened to be in Manilla at the time, to be deposited in the family burial place, at Harmony Grove Cemetery. Salem Observer.

YESTERDAY, Arthur Spring was executed in Philadelphia for the murder of the women, Shaw and Lynch. Within a few days his demeanor has changed, and has become more thoughtful and gloomy. On Monday he had two interviews with his son, who was the principal witness against him, and whom he has hitherto persisted in charging with the murder. The meeting between them was most affecting. A complete reconciliation took place. The guilty father clasped the son to his breast—cried over him bitterly—called him his dear, darling boy—told him that he forgave him, and asked his forgiveness; while the boy wept upon his parent's neck. He begged young Arthur not to leave him, but to stay till the execution was over, and see his remains interred. He also cut off a lock of his hair, which he entrusted to Arthur to take to his orphaned daughters. Young Arthur piteously and touchingly appealed to his father to exculpate him, and finally the culprit yielded to the boy's entreaties. The elder Spring was greatly subdued after the meeting was over, and became more thoughtful and gloomy.

ALL FUNERALS in Paris are performed by one chartered, registered company.—They have got a privilege, a concession, a monopoly, from the government. If you die in the Catholic religion, nobody else can bury you. They have an office that is open fourteen hours out of the twenty-four; they own five hundred black horses, eighty hearse of various sizes, (one expressly for giants,) drivers, mourners, bier-carriers, carpenters, drapers, without number; they have shields and armorial bearings ready painted for all the titled families in Paris; they have hangings for door-ways and churches, with every combination of embroidered initials in the alphabet; they make no difference; they undertake everything with nothing—do the whole, and then send you, or rather your executors and survivors, a swinging bill. The tariff of prices shows that there are pompes from 300 francs down to 5 francs.

THE WIDOW of Gen. Harrison still occupies a portion of the old mansion at North Bend, where she is watched over by the final care of the family of Col. Taylor.—She is in the serene evening of a long and eventful life, and, though bearing the weight of many years, is still able to move about the room. The present Harrison estate consists of 800 acres at North Bend, and 420 at the mouth of the Miami. The property is as yet undivided, though it is the intention of the heirs to effect a division of the coming season. The estate formerly embraced a large tract of intervalle land to the northward, but is now mostly composed of high rolling lands, near the Ohio.

LAUNCH OF A SHIP AT MOBILE.—The first ship launched at Mobile was on the 25th ult in the presence of at least two thousand people. The vessel was christened "The William R. Hazlett," by a young lady of Mobile. The W. R. H. is said to be a beautiful ship of 900 tons, and is constructed throughout of the very best materials. The masts and spars will soon be up in their places and the rigging and sails adjusted, when she will commence loading for Liverpool. The building and launching of the Wm. R. Hazlett is an era among the Mobileans.

GRISI is said to have once resorted to a stage trick to get some stimulant during one of her exhausting scenes. The play required her to kneel down to a mound, and press her face to it in a paroxysm of sorrow. This mound was so made that a mug could be presented from beneath; and while Grisi, in agony of grief, lies prostrate upon the mound, she manages, in a very quiet way to take one good long pull of porter, and in a voice and spirit goes on with the song.

PAPER MAKING IN NORTH CAROLINA.—There are five paper mills now in operation in this State, and another with a capital of \$225,000, is in process of erection, about six miles near Raleigh (the "Mantons" and the "Nense" mills) consume annually about one million and a half pounds of old rags; and the other four mills, viz: at Fayetteville, Shelby, Lincoln and Salem, as much more,—making 3,000,000 of stock used annually in North Carolina.

SPELLING LIQUORS.—One hundred gallons of liquor were poured out in this city on Saturday, by the sentence of Judge Hodsdon. To-day, also, a couple of barrels suffered under the same dispensation. Bangor Mercury, Monday.

NEW USE FOR A TRY-POT.—On Thursday, a man having a large try-pot to move from one of the north wharves down river, tumbled it into the dock, jumped in, and sculled it to the place of destination. N. B. Mercury.

A COUNTERFEITER while attempting to pass a spurious \$5 of the Rhode Island Central Bank, was arrested at Albany, 9th inst. About \$60 in bills on this bank were found on him.

NEWPORT MERCURY.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1853.

Last week we offered some general remarks in regard to the manufacture of gas and its introduction into the dwellings and stores in this town.—After that article was in type we received a communication from David Melvill, Esq., on the subject, which we would be pleased to publish at length had we room to spare. Rather than it should not find its way to the public, we have prepared from his manuscript some account of his experiments, which were of a highly interesting character, and which entitle him to the credit of being the first to prepare gas for consumption in this country.

At the time gas was introduced into Murdoch's factory (in Cornwall, 1792, we believe) the process was made a profound secret. The fact that gas was so used was all the information given to the public. Mr. Melvill, in his chemical experiments, had made and burnt gas in a small way, and on hearing of the operations in England, immediately commenced a course of experiments, 1805-6, with a view to the lighting of factories, light houses &c. The first apparatus, put up in the basement of his house on Pellam street, was very simple, but with even this he for some time successfully lighted the establishment for gas. During his operations the whole work was thrown open to the public and none of his experiments were kept back. A patent (for his security) was obtained about 1810, and for improvements he obtained another patent in 1812. The improvements were the result of two years experience, and when they were made the apparatus was considered perfect.

After the experiments had been found perfectly satisfactory and the patent of 1812 had been obtained, the mechanics who had previously assisted Mr. Melvill, prepared under his directions a complete apparatus, which was introduced into the basement of his house on Pellam street (the first story of which was used as a Bathing establishment) and consisted of more than twenty apartments, and the whole building was brilliantly illuminated by gas light. The public were freely invited to witness the operation, the better to become acquainted with the beauty of the light and the proper management of the apparatus for making the gas. Thousands visited the house and strangers from the neighboring towns and States, frequently to the number of twenty and even fifty at a time, were present to admire the gas light.

Pellam street, from Thames to Spring streets, was also lighted in the same way, by a lantern in the front of his house, into which the gas was conveyed.

Soon after the gas lights were thus exhibited in Newport, an agreement was made in connection with a gentleman from Boston, to put up a gas apparatus and light a large manufactory in the city of Providence. The contract was made with the Hon. James De Wolf, of Bristol, one of the principal proprietors. The apparatus was prepared in Boston, and was in every respect similar to that in use in Newport. It was set up and put in operation by Mr. Melvill, who gave the overseer of the manufactory all the necessary information for safety and its successful management. By experiments he made him familiar with its operations and particularly pointed to the dangers that might arise from inattention; but with all this caution a criminal neglect of duty caused an explosion of the gasometer, which destroyed it, and the gas house, and caused the death of the watchman of the factory. The watchman, he having ignorantly entered the gas house with a light. This accident alarmed those who were favorable to the introduction of gas, and thereby destroyed the pleasing anticipations of the inventor of the apparatus.

After this accident Mr. Melvill kept the gas light in use in his house, for more than twenty years. During that time he made it plain that the accident in Providence was wholly the result of carelessness and that it could not have occurred had the overseer followed his instructions. And this is more evident from the fact that during three quarters of the time the work was in operation in his house it was under the charge of a boy fifteen years of age, who at the outset received but one week's instruction.

The apparatus was kept in order until 1817, and occasionally lighted for the gratification of strangers. At that time (1817) a contract was made with the United States (with the consent of the contractors to furnish oil for five years) to build a gas house and apparatus, to light Beaver Tail light house for one year, the better to test the practicality and utility of substituting gas light for the old mode of lighting. A double apparatus (which was thought necessary, in case one should give out or require repairs) was put up, to make gas from Tar and Rosin (the products of our own country, in preference to imported coal) and the light was successfully used from Oct. 1816, to Oct. 1817. The double apparatus was a much more complicated affair than the one above cited, and it was more difficult to produce gas from the materials used than from coal, yet the work was managed by a boy under fourteen years of age. He was under the eye of the Light House keeper, who in turn had no other instruction than that given the boy in his employ.

When the contract with the United States was completed, the contractor forwarded to the Treasury Department a copy of his Meteorological Diary, kept at the Light House during the year, and the amount of his expenses, which were nearly double the sum for which he had contracted.—The extra expense arose from the necessity of having the double apparatus, before alluded to.

On the receipt of the report at the Department, Gen. Dearborn, the collector at Boston, was directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to visit Newport and obtain every information relative to the gas light experiment. He accordingly visited the light house, carefully examined the works and witnessed the operations; and for further information he was referred to the Marine Society, to persons residing from seven to twenty miles from Beaver Tail, who could see the light at all hours of the night, to residents on Black Island and to such masters of vessels as repeatedly had occasion to pass the light at night. Gen. Dearborn reported favorably, and recommended its adoption wherever it could be introduced conveniently, considering it the best light that could possibly be produced, and that the saving by it would pay the interest on the cost of the fixtures and the wages of an additional man to take charge of the apparatus.

On the presentation of this report, the Secretary of the Treasury wrote to Mr. Melvill, informing him that a favorable account of the gas light had been given by Gen. Dearborn, that the government was perfectly satisfied the contract had been faithfully fulfilled and his accounts were returned to the Collector, Hon. Wm. Ellery, to be examined and paid.

The adoption of the gas lights was declined at that time in consequence of an opposition on the part of those who had contracts to furnish oil.—The influence of those engaged in the whale fishery was also brought to bear upon it. But Mr. Melvill was assured that his plans would be accepted and acted upon, if the supply of oil was lessened by the existing war.

The contractor felt the need of some encouragement from Government and most sanguine expectations in producing a pure and uniform gas light, he gave up all further hopes. The gas apparatus was taken down, and the materials sold, and the whole project abandoned, and but for the introduction of gas into our streets and dwellings

at this time, the fact that these experiments were thus early made by Mr. Melvill, would have been known to the present generation. And when those who are now engaged in putting up fixtures in this town were informed of the successful experiment made here fifty years ago, the statement was doubted and considered a mistake, till the truth was established by the mechanics who were engaged in making the apparatus for Mr. Melvill. A further confirmation was found in a letter from Prof. Stillman, published in the "Electric Repository," 1814, with an engraving of "Melvill's Patent Improved Gas apparatus."

It is now proposed to publish in a small pamphlet form an account of Mr. Melvill's experiments, with an engraving of the apparatus he invented, together with such remarks as will give an insight into the process necessary for manufacturing gas, to which will be added hints for the instruction of those who are introducing the fixtures into the dwellings. The publication will take place from a sufficient sum is

